

HE'S OUT OF SIGHT

Yet the Work of the Stage Carpenter Is Important.

AN IMPORTANT FUNCTIONARY

Next to the Stage Manager the Stage Carpenter is Probably the Person With the Most Authority.

As the public must know, every well ordered theater has connected with it a body of officials who are never seen on the stage except by accident. This mechanical staff differs in size and ability, but a fair number for a good house will comprise a stage carpenter and his assistant, a property man, a flyman, two firemen and a gasman. We will call him a "gasman," though the closest fold of knave and levers and buttons manipulate electricity instead of gas in most modern houses. The mode of lighting is more expensive than gas, but it is easier to manage and there is much less danger of fire from it.

By the way, speaking of fire, the awakening of the authorities in most cities to a consciousness of the danger from fire in theaters makes no end of trouble for the stage carpenter, as well as vast inroads on the pockets of the manager. In addition to the electric lights, Mr. Albright has lately added to his theater a new asbestos curtain and a great pipe for water, which runs along in the flies and can be made to drench instantly every part of the stage should a fire break out among the inflammable mass of scenery and properties which must be always at hand.

Even in these days, when many combinations travel with carloads of special scenery, the theater must have a fair stock of its own. Drawing room scenes, wood scenes, cottages, kitchens and even barns must be in stock. These can be changed indefinitely by a few small set pieces to be used in front, thus affording a variety to those traveling companies who are willing to use the scenery belonging to the house. This is always desirable from the manager's point of view, as the cost of getting special scenery in and out of the theater is considerable and is always at his expense.

On the other hand, it is less troublesome than you would suppose to fit special scenery, when it is used, to the requirements of different houses. The only difficulty arises in the case of a very small theater, when the scene sometimes has to be out and lapped.

There is a great deal of difference in the ease with which scenery may be handled. Take, for instance, the storm scene in "Cleopatra." The one used by Mrs. Bernhardt was made in France, and was so heavy and massive that it gave no end of trouble wherever it went. Fanny Davenport's was much lighter and more easily handled, although the effect was more elaborate. We could prepare it in a very short time and without the slightest hitch. Some actors and stage managers are much more fastidious than others.

Mr. Mansfield is the most exacting person in this respect that I know. More things have to be hired for a Mansfield engagement than for any other three companies. Another very trying season for the stage carpenter is when grand opera comes to town for a week and the bill is changed every night. Seven performances, each one with different scenery and properties, involve a lot of troublesome detail for some one.

Every theater has its own paint frame and paint bench, and when new scenery is required the scene painter usually comes and does the work on the spot. Everything concerned with stage setting is short lived, and soon becomes very shabby on near view. In drawing room scenes the upholstered furniture is cared for as well as possible, but the constant hasty handling soon makes it battered and worn. In fact, the best materials for mantels, cabinets, bric-a-brac of large size, even for chairs, is the paper mache, with which a clever property man can work such wonders. It is light and easily handled, and stands hard knocks remarkably well.

The stage carpenter usually gets his plan of the scenes required for a coming attraction some time in advance of the engagement. He must meet as many of the needs as he can out of his stock in hand, and then arrange for the manufacture or rental of the rest. He must be on hand at every performance to see about the actual work of changing the scenes, and be ready to set straight any accident which may occur. His business is a regular trade, as in fact it is of every person on the mechanical staff of the house. The carpenter must even accompany the flyman in his perilous duties aloft if occasion requires.

By the way, I once had a flyman who was an old sailor, and found that a nautical career was the best possible training for the business. He was the handsomest man at getting around I ever saw, and if a rope broke he could splice it with marvelous speed. Besides all these duties the stage carpenter attends to repairs in other parts of the house, and makes improvements wherever he can. I have just come this morning from the skylight, where we need larger openings for the escape of smoke, warm air, etc. The ventilation around a stage must be quick and thorough, so that when powder is used in rollers all smoke and odor will pass quickly off.—B. F. Morrison in Kate Field's Washington.

THROUGH BRITISH EYES.

Now Englishmen Look Upon the Senate Report on Wages and Prices.

Again the stupid Britisher is spilling the game of his "strong sided champions" on this side. He took the hint to refrain from advocacy of Mr. Cleveland's election, convinced that by so doing he would best promote that candidate's chances of success. But he did not "catch on," as the saying is, to the plan of his fellow free traders in this country to ignore or discredit the senate report on wages and prices. He should be daily warned without delay not to attach any importance to it, but we fear the damage to the free trade cause is already done. For what could be stronger than this from the London Financial News of July 29, which was commenting on the report in question:

"It is indeed possible that English critics, in their traditional veneration for the principle of free trade, have

been hopelessly and egregiously wrong? Were our own expectations, in common with those of the majority of public commentators, founded on an entire misconception of the probable effects of a protective policy in the States? If this report be not a tissue of artfully contrived fabrications it would really seem that these questions ought to be answered in the affirmative. It is of course far from improbable that the report has been prepared by adherents of McKinleyism. The time of its publication is at least suspiciously opportune, and party zeal in America would scarcely hesitate at even such a method of demolishing opposition. But when all is said and done, there stand the positive statements of the subcommittee in all their force. According to these the cost of living has actually declined in the United States since the adoption of the McKinley act, whereas in Great Britain it has increased. We rub our eyes in amazement. Were those prophetic voices right, after all, which foretold an era of prosperity for the people of the United States as a result of their fostering home industry by means of a wall of hostile tariffs?"

The explanation of the thunderstruck condition of this London editor is that he had gone on believing with childlike simplicity the preposterous falsehoods about the new tariff, which were coined by his American allies. So far removed from the scene of its actual operation and with strong personal interests to prejudice his mind against our new protective measure, he swallowed without question every whooper that was dealt out to him. Here is a sample of the kind of stuff upon which the British have fed ever since the new tariff passed. It is taken from the London Labor World of Dec. 27, 1890:

"The sudden, general and rapid advance in the value of goods of every description has proved to the protectionist consumer better than a thousand arguments the folly of loading trade and commerce with fiscal chains. A worsted woolen suit for £2 is now £2 14; alpaca at 2 shillings and 6 pence to 3 shillings per yard is now 4 shillings to 4 shillings and 6 pence; woollen goods at 10 pence per yard raised to 1 shilling and 8 pence per yard; pearl buttons at 1 penny per dozen, now 4 to 5 pence. The tax of 100 per cent. on tin plate has raised the price of coffee pots from 4 to 6 shillings. An orange formerly 1 penny to 1½ pence, now costs 2½ to 5 pence. Barley is taxed 1 shilling and 2½ pence per bushel, formerly 5 pence; maize 7½ pence instead of 5 pence; corn and meal 10 pence instead of 5 pence; cigars formerly 2½ pence are now 5 pence, and a similar rise through the list. But not content with taxing the living, the dead are made to contribute, as a tax on coffins formerly £9 now costs £12 to £16."

We remarked at the time on the gullibility of the Britisher. But it seems he went on believing with unabated ardor. Naturally the consequences have been just as The Financial News now describes. But let us quote farther from what it says:

"If the conclusions of the subcommittee are really borne out by the improved conditions of the people, the Americans will undoubtedly be able henceforth to put forward a substantial justification for their protective policy. We might perhaps go farther and say that free traders, all the world over, will be strongly inclined to reconsider their position. If such a view could be sustained in an exhaustive and impartial inquiry, the members of the Cobden club would be compelled to adopt a new set of arguments in favor of their cherished creed, or the conventional shibboleths of a party which had outlived its reputation for sagacity would have to go ignominiously by the board."

In that paragraph is contained the dynamite bomb for the American free trade camp. On this side there has been maintained a sturdy determination to attach no importance whatever to the senate investigation and to repudiate the work of Edward Atkinson, Henry Carter Adams, Francis A. Walker, Senator Carlisle and Senator Harris, all eminent free traders, who unanimously agree that there can be no question about the facts reported. The Financial News continues:

"Free trade has hitherto been held up to our reverent regard, on the ground that in opening our markets without hindrance to all sorts of foreign competition we conferred upon the public the enormous benefit of cheapening the cost of living. The distrust of this theory, hinted at by Lord Salisbury in May last, would no doubt be accentuated if it turned out that protection in the United States had brought about such a result, while free trade in Great Britain had done the opposite."

If this English editor will regularly read more true American newspapers and less of The Times and World he will be safeguarded in future against such terrible shocks to his nervous system as the one which called forth the comments quoted above.

An Independent Paper on the Issues.

The radical free trade plank of the Democratic platform is beginning to produce a strong effect on the minds of the people. Says the Syracuse Herald, one of the most prominent independent papers in the state of New York, in an editorial explaining its reasons for supporting the Republican candidates:

"The Herald is for Harrison, Reid and protection. The chief point for the elector to decide in 1892 was whether he wished to continue the system of protection as upheld and guided by the Republican party. Since 1892 identically the same issue confronts the people. Believing that protection is the policy that brings a greater good to the greater number of our people than free trade or a tariff for revenue only. The Herald without hesitation accepts President Harrison and Whiteley Reid as the leaders for protection of American industries and American labor."

Abraham Lincoln as a Protectionist. Abraham Lincoln delivered his first political speech in 1832, when a candidate for the legislature of Illinois. It was as follows: "Gentlemen, Fellow Citizens—I presume you know who I am. I am humble Abraham Lincoln. I have been solicited by many friends to become a candidate for the legislature. My politics can be briefly stated. I am in favor of the internal improvement system and a high protective tariff. These are my sentiments and political principles. If elected I shall be thankful, if not it will be all the same. The same issue confronts the American peo-

ple today which confronted Lincoln in 1832. Is not the example of "humble Abraham Lincoln," patriot and martyr, a better one to follow than that of Calhoun, the slave driver, or Jefferson Davis, the secessionist?

ANOTHER NEW INDUSTRY HERE.

Henry Lister & Son Remove Their Plush Factory to the United States.

A fresh illustration of how the new tariff is stimulating the material greatness of the United States is the recent removal to this country of the large establishment of Henry Lister & Son, of Huddersfield, England, manufacturers of silk and mohair plushes. Perhaps no plush manufacturers are more widely known in the mercantile world than the firm of Henry Lister & Son, who are now erecting a magnificent new factory at Jamestown, N. Y. In their factory in England they employed about 1,500 hands, but expect to do business on a much larger scale in this country.

Prior to the passage of the McKinley tariff Lister & Son marketed nearly \$1,000,000 worth, or 90 per cent. of their annual output, in this country, but the effect of the new tariff was to deprive them of their entire American trade. In an interview in the Buffalo Commercial relative to the effects of the late tariff upon their business Mr. H. R. Lister said:

"When the McKinley bill became law our business was paralyzed; orders were canceled from here (and 90 per cent. of our trade was with America); the value of all our stock went down and down until the stuff was hardly worth anything. Tussock silk, which has sold for eighty cents per pound, dropped to sixteen cents within twelve months, and the manufactured articles declined in proportion, and tussock silk products were a large factor in our business. The result of this depreciation was a loss to our concern exceeding half a million dollars, with worse prospects at the beginning of the second year than when the act was passed. We continued business, though at a loss, hoping that the bill would be repealed and that we could again get control of the American market. The showing of the second balance sheet was so much worse than that of the first that father and I at once decided to try America."

Mr. Lister says that his goods can be manufactured here as well as elsewhere. Of the American market he says:

"Our experience is that it is the greatest and best market in the world, and is continually improving. The population is not only immense, but the per capita consumption is greater than in any other country, which is accounted for by the fact that the American working and middle classes are more prosperous than anywhere else and buy more freely. While in England, I am sorry to say, the buying capacity of the masses is seriously decreasing."

For the kind of labor employed in his business, Mr. Lister says, he will be obliged to pay from 50 to 100 per cent. more in this country than he paid in England. The weekly earnings of warp dressers in their Huddersfield factory were 32 shillings or \$8 per week, while in this country they will have to pay \$13.50 for the same work. Unskilled laborers they paid in England less than \$5 per week, but here they will be obliged to pay from \$8 to \$9 per week. In their English factory they paid loom fixers \$6 per week, but will have to pay \$12 and \$15 for the same work in their Jamestown factory.

Mr. Lister further says that a laboring man can live as cheaply in this country as in England. Meat, eggs, butter, cheese, flour, fruit and vegetables are cheaper here. The only things dearer are house rent and the finer grades of clothing.

Of the comfortable condition of our working classes he said:

"When I came here and saw the comfortable quarters occupied by your work people, I could not help thinking that a man leaving the conditions existing on the other side and acquiring those here must feel this country to be heaven."

When asked to account for the fact that so many foreigners vote for free trade when they come to this country, Mr. Lister answered:

"I cannot, unless upon the theory that they do not understand what they are doing. Free trade in this country, or a material reduction of the present tariff, is as sure to reduce the rates of wages as the sun is to rise tomorrow."

Laboring men, here are a few cold, glittering facts upon which it would be well for you to ponder between now and next November. Here you see your country enriched by the building of a new industry—which is but one instance among hundreds—brought here, as you are informed by one of its proprietors, by the influence of the new tariff. He has also described the wretched conditions of labor in England, and assures you that to lower the tariff "is as sure to reduce wages as the sun is to rise tomorrow."

Free Traders Will Take Notice.

The free trade "reformer" who asked whether there was a protectionist anywhere that could truthfully point to a case in which wages had risen under the new tariff law should have followed up his question by the warning "not all to talk at once," for this really seems necessary in view of items continually appearing in the columns of the daily press. Last week we chronicled the fact that 25,000 operatives in the Fall River cotton mills had had their wages raised 3½ per cent. Now come the Lowell cotton manufacturers with a reduction of several hours per week in the time of labor, while continuing to pay the same wages. This is equivalent to quite a large increase in actual compensation. Will the free trade "reformer" please take notice?

Sugar Planters Demand Protection. The rice and sugar planters of Louisiana are said to be contemplating the formation of an organization whose object shall be to secure the election of protectionist representatives from the state in congress. There is nothing surprising in this when it is remembered that six-sevenths of the sum paid by the United States in sugar bounties during the past fiscal year went to the sugar planters of Louisiana. The only surprising thing is that they have not done so before.

American Tin Plate.

Official reports from the treasury department present some hard nuts for free traders to crack in regard to the tin plate industry. Special Agent Ayer has just made public another report. It is he brings down the tin plate industry to June 30, 1892, and a wonderful showing it is. During the first quarter of the year only five persons were engaged in the business, in the second quarter eleven persons were engaged, in the third quarter twenty were engaged, and at the close of the fourth quarter twenty-six persons were making tin plate, with a probability of at least eight new names to be added to the list by the close of the present quarter.

In the same way the product is rapidly increasing and the amount for the year will not be far short of 20,000,000 pounds. Less than 1,000,000 pounds of tin andterne plates were made in the first quarter of the last fiscal year, and more than 8,000,000 pounds in the last quarter. This is a showing that should make the tin plate liar hang his head for shame.

"Special Interests."

Does protection favor "special interests?" Is it merely a scheme to "tax" the masses for the benefit of the "favored few?" Is it really a robbery of the "plain people" by the "monopolist manufacturers" protected by our tariff? If it is, then indeed is the faith of the protectionist a very poor one, nor can there be the least justification for such a system of extortion.

But ask the importer, alien as he is in his business and too often alien also in citizenship—ask him, as he laughs in his sleeve and pockets the enormous profits reaped by stimulating foreign industries and giving employment to foreign workmen, whether protection or free trade favors "special interests."

Ask the free raw material manufacturer, won over by selfish considerations of individual advantage, whether protection really only helps "special interests."

Ask these men, and then admire and commend the righteous indignation with which they all oppose protection for no other reason than because it favors "special interests."

Protection is too broad, too liberal, too national a system to favor any "special interest" in the free trade sense of the word. It protects American labor anywhere and everywhere—on farm and field, in forest and mine, on ship and in factory.

But if to stimulate American industry, give motive to American enterprise, add to American wealth and advocate American doctrines and support for our own citizens against the world—if that is favoring special interests, then indeed does protection do so.

And we glory in it.—American Economist.

Does This Mean Free Trade?

The latest ebullition of Henry Watterson, the great exponent of Democratic free trade, reads as follows: "Down with the swindling reciprocity treaties; down with the cant about the wage earners; down with the fraud that taxes make wealth; down with all the fallacies of protection, and up with the starry flag of the Union—free trade and sailors' rights!" The next thing in Bay is another letter from Buzzard's Bay explaining all about the Democratic love for American interests "dependent upon existing laws."

M. Keenan's Regard for Animals.

M. Keenan has known any number of instances of superior sagacity in broad brims. He felt that he did not go too far in regarding cats and dogs that he had known as humble relatives. When a child he had for a neighbor a dog that, disliking the Friday's dinner of fish and potatoes, used regularly on Thursday to go looking about for bones to hide them for his meals next day. How did he know that Thursday preceded Friday? Another dog associated Sunday with personal cleanliness, and used as regularly as it came around to go and take a bath, unless the weather was very cold, when he gave himself absolute. His name was Jocko.—London Truth.

More Gray Than Blue Under Democrats.

The ex-Confederate Democrats are looking with anxiety to the result of the coming election, which they hope may give them control of the senate again. Senator Benjamin Harrison, in a report submitted to the senate in 1892, showed that the Democratic seignior-at-arms of the senate had ex-Confederates as about 16 per cent. of his force, and that the secretary of the senate had over 22 per cent. of his force made up of ex-Confederates and only 14 per cent. Union soldiers.

It Favors the Farmers.

The McKinley law has in the past year reduced the importations of farm products over \$30,000,000, thus adding that amount to the home markets of our farmers.

REPUBLICAN MEETINGS.

September 28, Tenth Ward club will meet at McGowan's hall, East street. Addressed by Alfred Wolcott and James A. Coyle.

September 29, Ninth Ward club will meet at McGowan's hall. Addressed by Alfred Wolcott and Dwight Coyle.

REPUBLICAN DISTRICT CONVENTION.

The republicans of the second representative district of Kent county will meet in convention at the Ada hotel Sunday, October 24, 1892, for the purpose of nominating a candidate to represent said district in the legislature and to transact such other business as may properly come before it. By order of the committee: Nelson Kelly, Chairman.

SIXTEENTH DISTRICT SENATORIAL CONVENTION.

The republicans of the sixteenth senatorial district, comprising the city of Grand Rapids, are hereby notified that they will meet in convention on Friday, September 30, at 7 o'clock, at the Grand Rapids hotel, for the purpose of nominating a candidate to represent said district in the legislature and to transact such other business as may properly come before it. By order of the committee: Nelson Kelly, Chairman.

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